

Unified Phase Assessment



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BACKGROUND

- As OSWER programs were initiated and developed over the years they each developed their own style of conducting assessments.
- Regardless of the program, certain questions are posed in an environmental assessment.
 - Why the Assessment is being initiated
 - Site History

BACKGROUND

- Present Site Conditions
- Site Sketch
- Environmental Concerns
- Legal Concerns
- The AA for OSWER has envisioned a one program approach.
 - Not a single program
 - Rather a group of programs working with consistent methods across OSWER

BACKGROUND

- OSWER, over the last few years has implemented the Brownfields initiative across all of its other programs (UST, RCRA and Superfund)
- The new BF legislation has called for EPA to develop, for its BF Program, a standard assessment process and to use the ASTM standard until or unless a new method has been developed by EPA

THE UPA INITIATIVE

- Identify elements commonly found in assessments conducted within OSWER and within the ASTM standards
- Identify key elements that need to be known about any site being assessed
- Combine common elements with key elements to form the UPA main body
- Develop a Quick Reference page based on key elements

THE UPA INITIATIVE

- Elements that are program specific will be included at the end of the UPA as attachments
 - Each program will have its own specific attachment letter
 - Attachment B – Brownfields
 - Attachment R – RCRA
 - Attachment S – Superfund
 - Attachment U - UST

THE UPA INITIATIVE

- Develop a prototype UPA template, UPA-alpha (UPAa), within Region III
- Apply the UPAa to actual assessments conducted within the Region from each of the four programs
 - UPAa modified as warranted
 - “Legal Concerns”, for the most part, will not be addressed
- Develop a SOW to have contractors field test the UPAa

THE UPA INITIATIVE

- Submit UPAA and test cases to EPA HQ for national discussions, modifications
 - Develop a national workgroup to further develop the UPA
 - All OSWER programs would be represented on any national workgroup that may be formed

The Goals of the UPA Initiative

- A single assessment platform within OSWER
- Reduction in confusion among OSWER Programs, the general public, states, environmental contractors, developers and others
- Reduce duplication of effort among programs

The Goals of the UPA Initiative

- Have the UPA interchangeable between programs
 - A UPA from a RCRA site deferred to Superfund could be used in Superfund without reassessing the site
 - UPAs NFRAP'ed under a federal Superfund Program would be directly applicable to either a federal or state Brownfields Program
- Eliminate the need for TBAs, BAs, PAs, SIs, SCRs and other such initial assessment tools within OSWER

The Goals of the UPA Initiative

- Move OSWER one step closure to its “One Program” vision